

Budgetcampervans/France.com FAQ's

Hiring a campervan and motorhome in France on a budget or driving into France from another country offers a great holiday opportunity. Campervans or motorhomes are often referred to as **camping-cars** in France.

How can I camp cheaply in France?

France has a huge network of campsites and **free** overnight camping. These are called *aire de camping*. You can **save** on your holiday by choosing these campsites. They are usually well positioned but lack facilities such as showers or toilet blocks.

This site is useful in finding them but in most areas they are signposted.

<http://en.airecampingcar.com/>

Paid sites inspected by the Caravan club can be found from this

link:<http://www.caravanclub.co.uk/overseas-holidays/sites>

Other useful links for campsites in France are:

<http://www.frenchcampsites.co>

<http://www.pitchup.com/campsites/france/>

The Know Before you Go website run by the British Foreign office has useful info for all nationalities.

I have never hire a campervan before, is it difficult?

If you have never hired a campervan or motorhome before then France is a **good starting point**. The roads are wide and there are campsites everywhere.

Plan your journey to explore a region. Try not to pack in long distances every day. The **joy of hiring** a campervan or motorhome is being able to make your holiday **flexible to suit you**.

If you enjoy a place then you **can stay longer**. You can leave early and move on if the weather turns bad or if you have seen everything you wanted to.

Campervans and motorhomes are **easy to drive**. Watch out for the **overhang above the passenger side** and take extra care when **reversing**. Many are automatic and the choice between **manual and automatic** is offered at the time of booking. You can use our filter system to select which you prefer.

 **Filter by company**

[select all](#) | [clear](#)

- Avis CarAway Motorhome Rental
- Big Sky Motorhome Rental France

 **Filter by features**

- Auto
- Manual
- Petrol
- Diesel
- Toilet
- Shower

 **Filter by vehicle age**

[select all](#) | [clear](#)

- 0 - 2 years old
- 3 - 4 years old
- 5 - 6 years old
- 7 - 9 years old
- 10+ years old

The France Tourism Development website is really useful for planning a route
<http://int.rendezvousenfrance.com/>

Is there electricity in a campervan or motorhome?

Campervans and motorhomes have **two sets of batteries**. The first is connected to the **engine** and has the same function as a car battery. The **second charges as you drive** and will power the lights, heater and radio/tv when you are stationary. You can usually last a couple of days before having to drive more to recharge the battery.

What is a “hook up” or “powered site”

This is when you **attach your campervan** or motorhome to the **mains electricity supply** on a campsite. This enables you to use the **mains electricity supply in your campervan**. You can use the microwave or recharge computers, phones etc.

How is the water heated in my campervan?

There are **gas bottles** that supply the **gas for heating water and for cooking**. You may need to replace these while on holiday for a long time. You can do this on **most campsites** or purchase gas from camping shops.

How do I save money on campervan hire?

Book your campervan early. Many companies offer **discounts for early** booking.

Book the **smallest camper** for your needs. If there is just two of you and you are flexible about where you pick up the campervan then consider different pick up points as the fleets vary from city to city.

Avoid one-way hires. There is an additional drop off fee if you pick up and return the vehicle in different cities. The fees are calculated on at **€1.00 per km distance between the two depots**. This can add up and often you can drive a round trip and avoid this fee.

Take your own bedding. This is usually an additional charge.

Check out if it is cheaper to pick up a campervan **outside of France** and then drive around and return it to another country. Germany can offer some great deals too.

Limit the number of miles that you travel. Campervans are more costly to run than cars.

Book an older vehicle. The rates are cheaper and if you don't mind a camper that is a little tired around the edges then you can save money.

Why is it cheaper to hire a campervan or motorhome than hire a car and pay for accommodation?

The benefits of hiring a campervan for travelling through France is that there are many **free places to camp** overnight. You can **self-cater** for all **meals and snacks**. This means you are **not paying** for coffee and snacks in a café and you **save money** by shopping with **the locals** and preparing your own meals.

Hiring a campervan or motorhome for a **family holiday** gives you freedom to choose what you all want to do. **Children really enjoy** the campervan experience. You have an on **board toilet**; a **shower** to jump into after a **swim in the sea**; you can provide **meals almost instantly**. You can **laze around** in a place that you is special to you.

What size of campervan or motorhome should I hire?

The **smallest two berth** low top vehicles are the **cheapest both to hire and to run**. You can also rent this type of vehicle for **up to five people**. They have **basic cooking** facilities but **don't have a shower** or toilet.

The next size is the **2 berth with a shower and toilet**. This is suitable for couples as there is usually only one double bed.

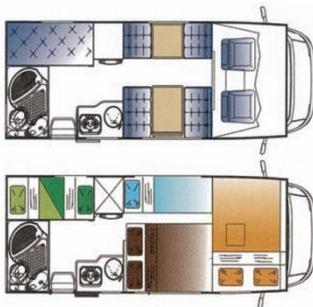
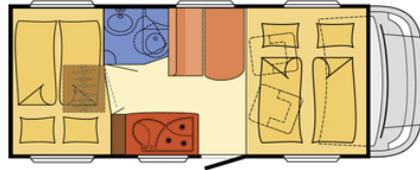
There are **three berths** suitable for **two adults and a smaller adult or child**.

The **four berths** generally have a **double bed above** the driver's cab and a **double bed or two singles** at the rear of the vehicle.

Six berths have **three double beds** or **two doubles and two singles**. There are **seven berths** available in some centres.



Tag/Daytime



Choose from **2-berth low top**, **5-berth low-top or pop-top**, **2 berth with shower and toilet**, **2/3 berth with shower and toilet**, **4 berth with shower and toilet**, **5, 6 and 7 berth with shower and toilet**.

Please **email**, or **call us** to discuss the options.

Special events:

The **Tour de France, Le Mans** and other **major events** or **concerts** are always popular for **campervan and motorhome hire**. **Book early** for these events as **availability is limited**. If you are **flexible** about where you collect your campervan or motorhome from then you will have a better chance to book at a great price.

Breakdown cover:

It is a **rare event** that the campervans or motorhomes break down but you will be **supplied with a phone number** to contact in the event of things going wrong. You should **contact the depot** even if a tyre needs to be changed or if you are not sure how something works on the vehicle. They are **there to help**. There are some companies in France that **charge extra for breakdown cover**. If it is not listed as an extra then it will be included. You can ask us to check again.

Why do I have to enter my payment details when I book?

Campervan and motorhome availability for hire **changes by the hour**. We have **hundreds** of general enquiries **every day** from customers who want to know **how much it costs to hire a campervan**. If we were to put a vehicle on hold for a customer then that would make a vehicle not available for another customer that wants to book.

You can **find out all the costs online** for your campervan or motorhome hire. There are **no hidden extras**. Once you get to the **point of entering your payment details** you will have a **complete summary** of all the charges. If you are happy with these **then make a booking request**. We will then **book the vehicle** for you and **process the payment**.

If the vehicle **isn't available** we will **find other campervans** and ask you by email if these are suitable. If you are not happy with these then **we don't process payment** but if you are then it **speeds up** the process for everybody.

If you book in **local currency** ie Euros for France then you will see the **terms of payment** change to those if you book in your own currency ie Australian dollars or British pounds or any of the other currencies on offer.

The **price will be fixed** at the **time of booking** if you book in your own currency so that the effect of currency fluctuation does not change the price of the booking. If you **book in Euros** for France then the **price is fixed** in Euros and if there is any change in the exchange rate then your credit card company will set that rate.

Insurance:

All vehicles have **insurance** and the liability of the hirer varies between each vehicle. You can **reduce the insurance liability** by taking either the offer of **additional insurance** from the hirer or from our website or you can contact your **own insurance** company to see if you already have **insurance cover for liability** on a hire vehicle.

You may decide not to take any **additional insurance** and will have to leave a **security deposit** on a **credit card** when you collect the vehicle. This will be the same amount as the **liability**.

If you take out **additional insurance** you will still have to leave a **security bond** to ensure that you return the vehicle to the correct location in a good and clean condition on the agreed day. You will lose the security deposit if you don't do any of these. If you keep the vehicle for longer you may incur **additional charges**.

Additional charges:

The **basic daily rate** covers the **hire** of the campervan or motorhome. There are **additional optional** charges that you may be able to cover in different ways. You can sometimes **negotiate extra fees** for **long term hires over three to four weeks**.

Extra driver. The extra driver fee provides insurance for more than one driver. The vehicle is always insured for at least one driver.

Younger driver insurance. Drivers under 25 have to pay additional insurance in some cases.

Bike and bike carriers are often offered as optional extras. France is very "bike-friendly"

Table and chairs. These are often extras but you can **often buy them cheaper** than hiring them. You can pack your car with a kitchen kit if you are leaving it at the depot but it may be cheaper hiring for the duration. Check through the list and **pre-book the necessities** and then you can always **add to it** when you have done some research. **We are here to help so please ask us.**

Airport or hotel transfers. These are offered in some hires. Check out where the depot is by clicking on the blue link and seeing where you are landing or staying before booking this. You may be able to catch a bus or train. Sometimes it is cheaper and easier to book a transfer online when available.

GPS: Take your own and **download** the relevant **software**. If using a mobile check your additional international roaming costs as these may be high. GPS is expensive to hire and there are alternatives.

Baby seat/booster seat. You can take your own or arrange before you go. They are essential.

Cancellation fees: These will apply if you **cancel too close** to collecting the campervan. If you cancel **due to illness** etc you can claim back on your **own travel insurance**. If you cancel just because you have just decided not to go then the hire company has lost business and if they, or us, have enough lead in time we can arrange for another hire to take your cancelled vehicle. In this case we can usually **minimise the fees**. If it is a late cancellation then the fees are applied on a sliding scale.

Check the terms on each booking as they all vary slightly.

Official Tourist Board Sites by Region

<http://www.en.lyon-france.com/>

<http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/normandy-tourism-109-2.html>

<http://www.brittanytourism.com/>

<http://about-france.com/regions/northwest.htm>

<http://about-france.com/regions/northeast.htm>

<http://about-france.com/regions/southwest.htm>

<http://about-france.com/regions/loire-valley-burgundy.htm>

<http://about-france.com/regions/upland-mountain.htm>

<http://about-france.com/regions/south-of-france.htm>

